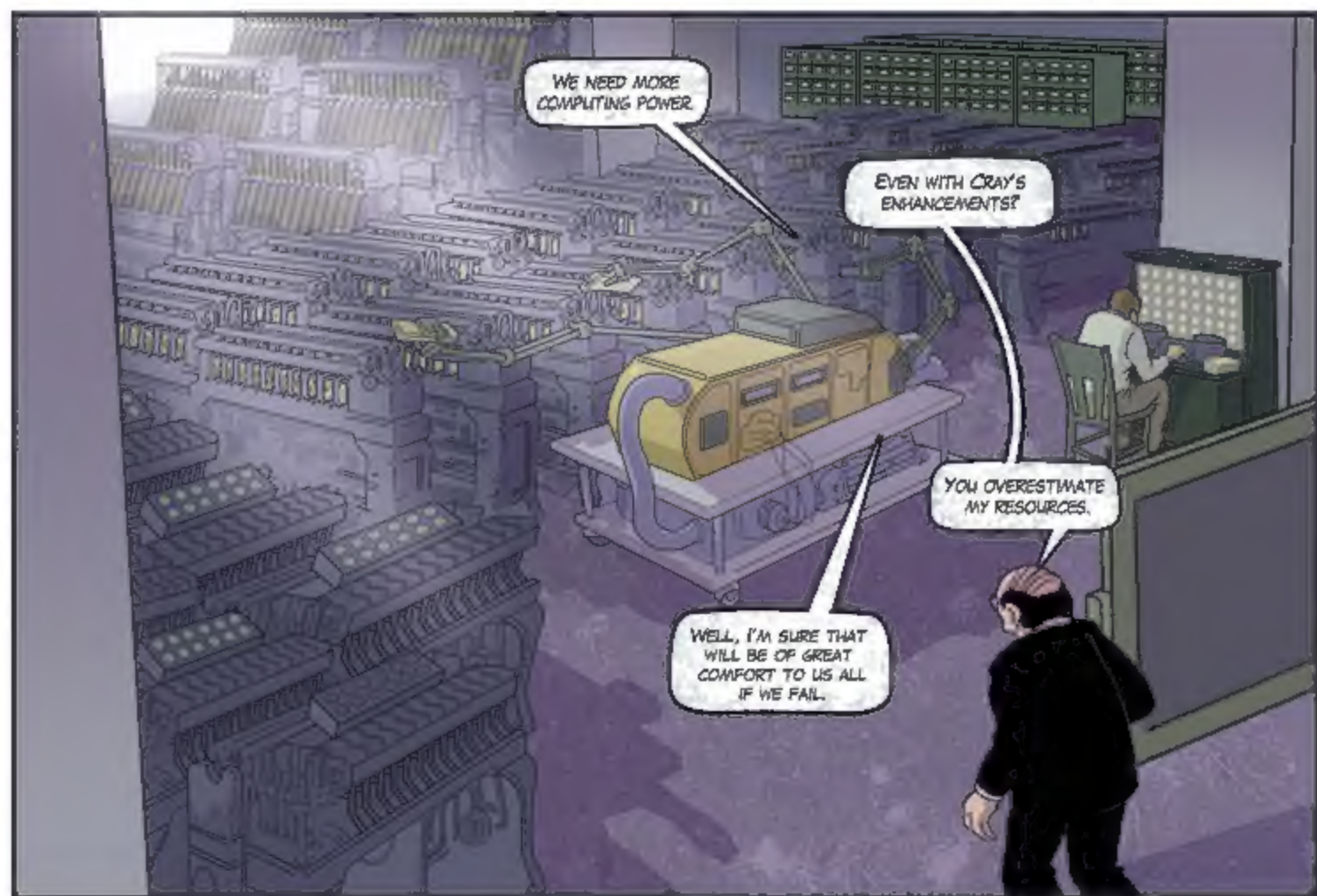






DO YOU KNOW, KRESKIN,
I REMEMBER MY VERY
FIRST MOMENT OF
CONSCIOUSNESS?

NOT FULLY FORMED,
OF COURSE. I DID NOT
KNOW WHO, OR WHAT
I WAS—

—ONLY THAT
I WAS.

AND THAT MY HOST
WAS A MOHAMMEDAN
APOSTATE AND
ALCHEMIST....

....WHO WENT BY THE
NAME OF
ABDU AL-HAZRD.

HIS PASSION--HIS OBSESSION--
WAS TO COMPILE ALL THE ANCIENT,
FORBIDDEN LORE, FROM HERMES
TRISMEGISTUS TO THE SECRETS OF
THE DESERT DJINN INTO A SINGLE
VOLUME.



HE SOUGHT OUT MOULDERING
PALIMPSESTS IN ABANDONED
AND SHUNNED TEMPLES
DEDICATED TO FORGOTTEN GODS.



HE LISTENED TO THE SECRETS OF
THE WIND AS IT HOWLED THROUGH THE
RUINS OF ANCIENT CITIES, AND
DECIPHERED THE SONGS OF
INSECTS IN THE NIGHT.



HE CONSULTED OBSCURE RELICS
OF DEGENERATE RACES...



...AND OFTEN, THE LAST
LIVING DESCENDANTS OF
THOSE RACES.



AND WHEN HE COULD
NOT FIND WHAT HE
NEEDED IN THIS WORLD...



--HE SOUGHT
--IT ELSEWHERE







NEED I SAY, IT
WAS A VERY
CONFUSING TIME--



--AND WHO WAS THERE, REALLY,
TO TURN TO FOR GUIDANCE?

TO EXPLAIN THE SENSATIONS
I FELT COURSEING THROUGH
MY BEING?



THERE WERE SEVERAL
LOCALS, BRAVER THAN
THE REST..



...WHO GAVE ME MY
FIRST TASTE OF PAIN....

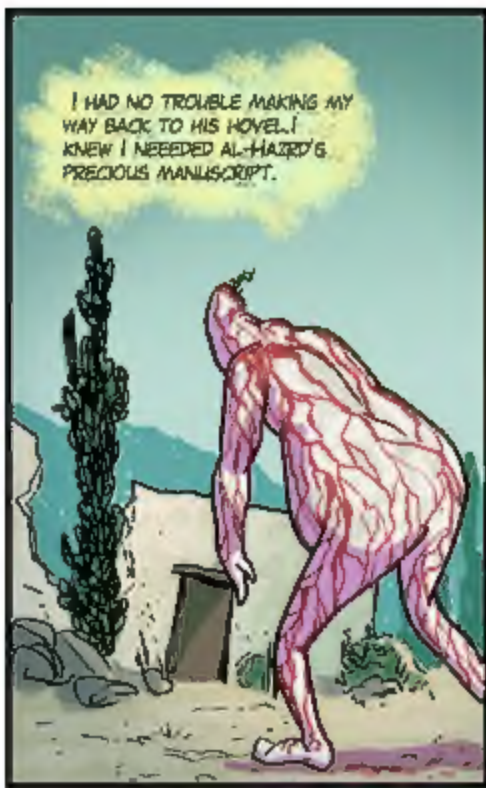


...AS WELL AS...

...THE FIRST
TASTE OF...



...MY DESTINY.





MI AMIGOS!

THE DAY, IT HAS
ARRIVED, YEST

WE ARE EVEN AHEAD OF OUR
SCHEDULE! ALL THE MACHINES
WILL BE IN PLACE BEFORE THE
SUN HAS SET.



EVERYTHING HAS
BEEN CHECKED AND
RE-CHECKED, AND
CHECKED YET AGAIN.
NOTHING HAS BEEN
LEFT TO CHANCE.



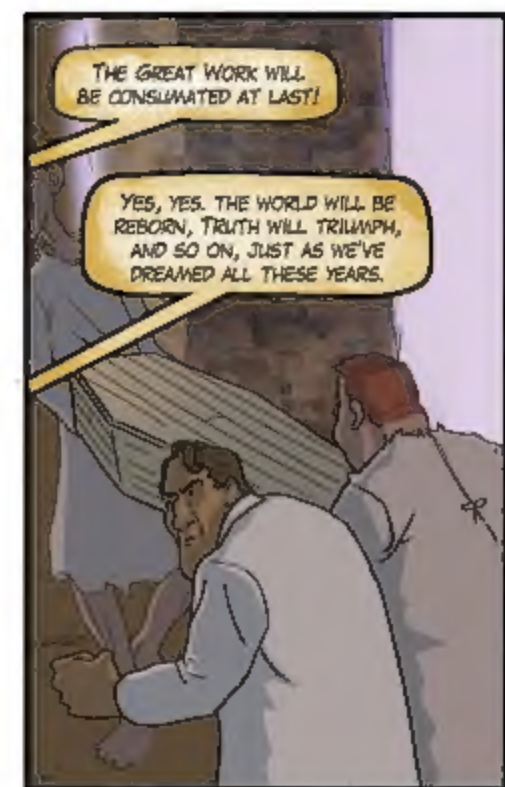
I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE
IN YOUR TECHNOLOGY, DOCTOR.
THE ARRIVAL OF THE GUESTS
IS MY GREATEST CONCERN.

THE COORDINATES HAVE BEEN
TRANSMITTED AND ALL HAVE
CONFIRMED THEIR RECEIPT.

EVEN AS WE SPEAK,
PREPARATIONS ARE
BEING MADE FOR
THEIR ARRIVAL.



THE TEMPLE WILL
OVERFLOW WITH
THE FAITHFUL.



THE GREAT WORK WILL
BE CONSUMMATED AT LAST!

YES, YES. THE WORLD WILL BE
REBORN, TRUTH WILL TRIUMPH,
AND SO ON, JUST AS WE'VE
DREAMED ALL THESE YEARS.

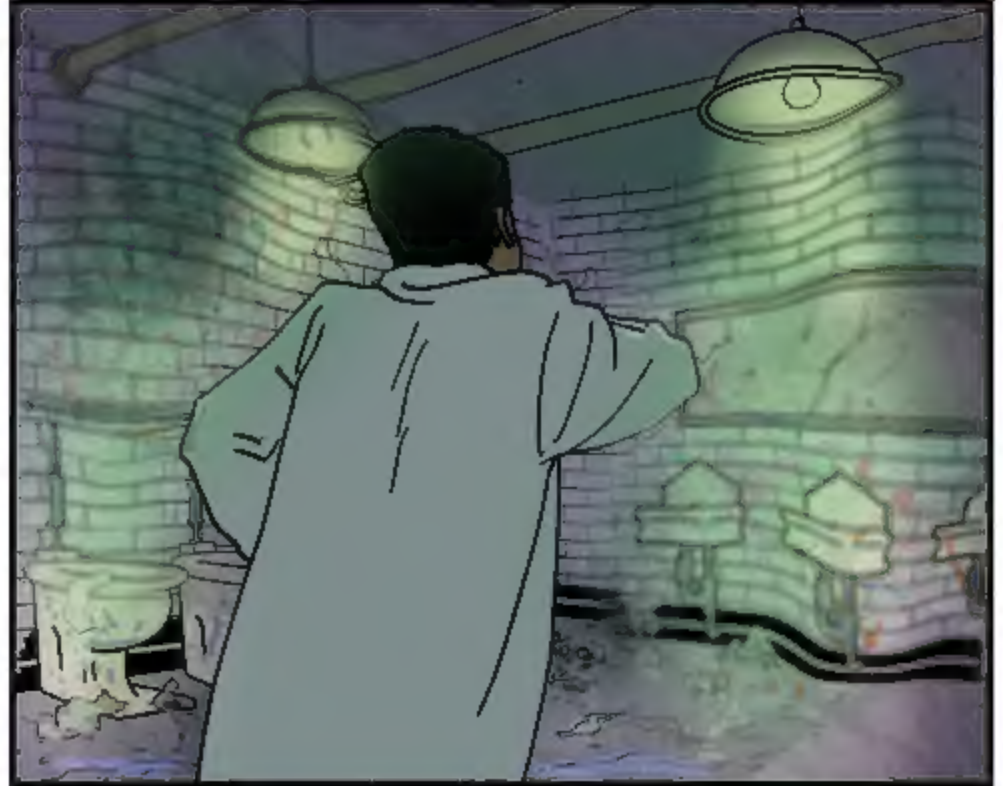


AND THEN WE WILL
ALL RECEIVE OUR JUST
REWARDS YES?

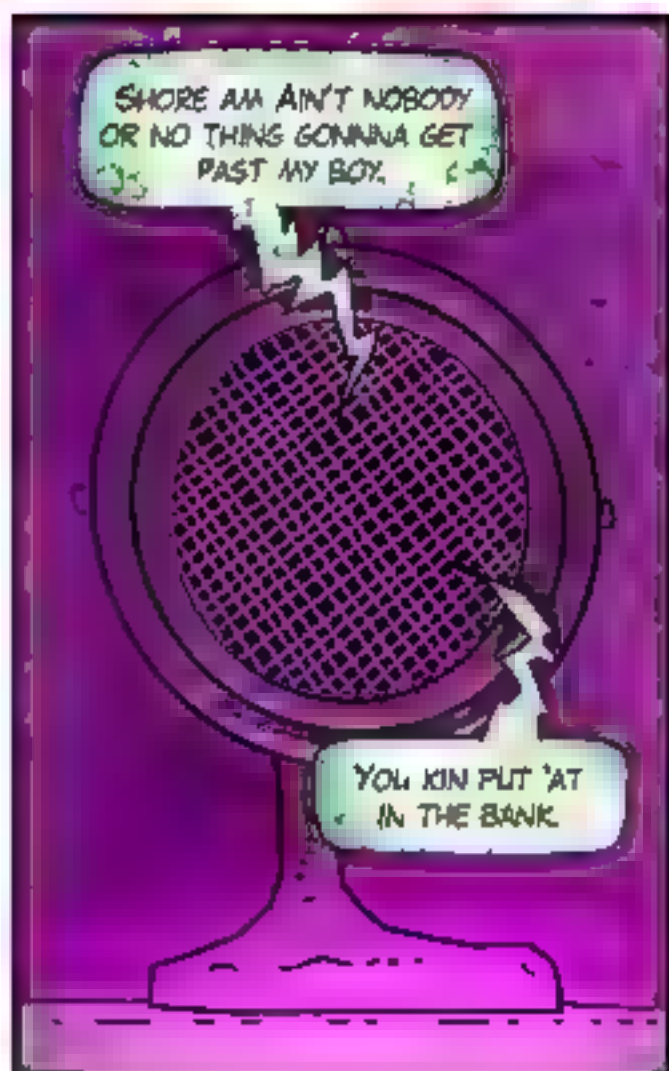
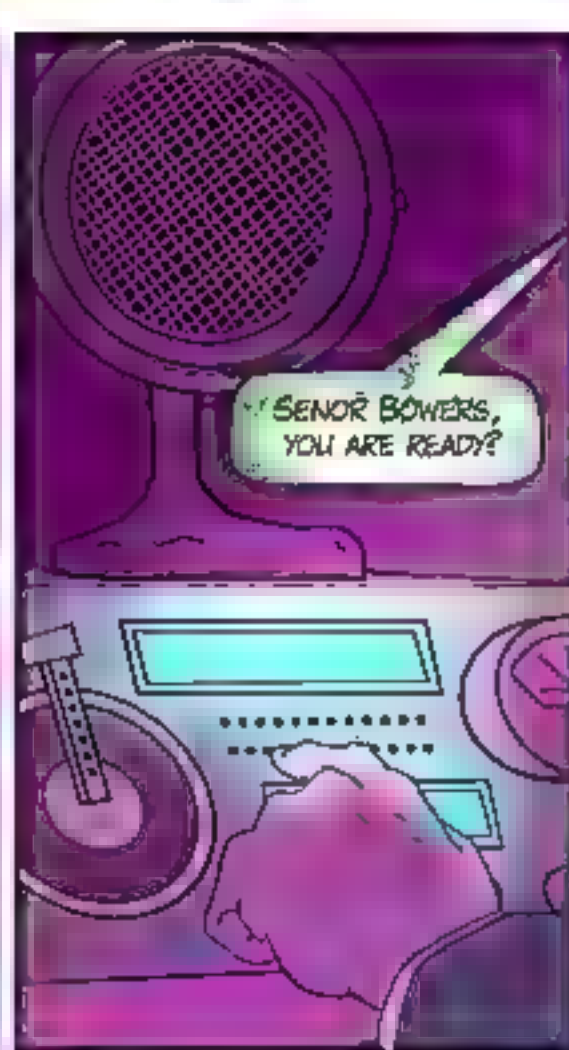
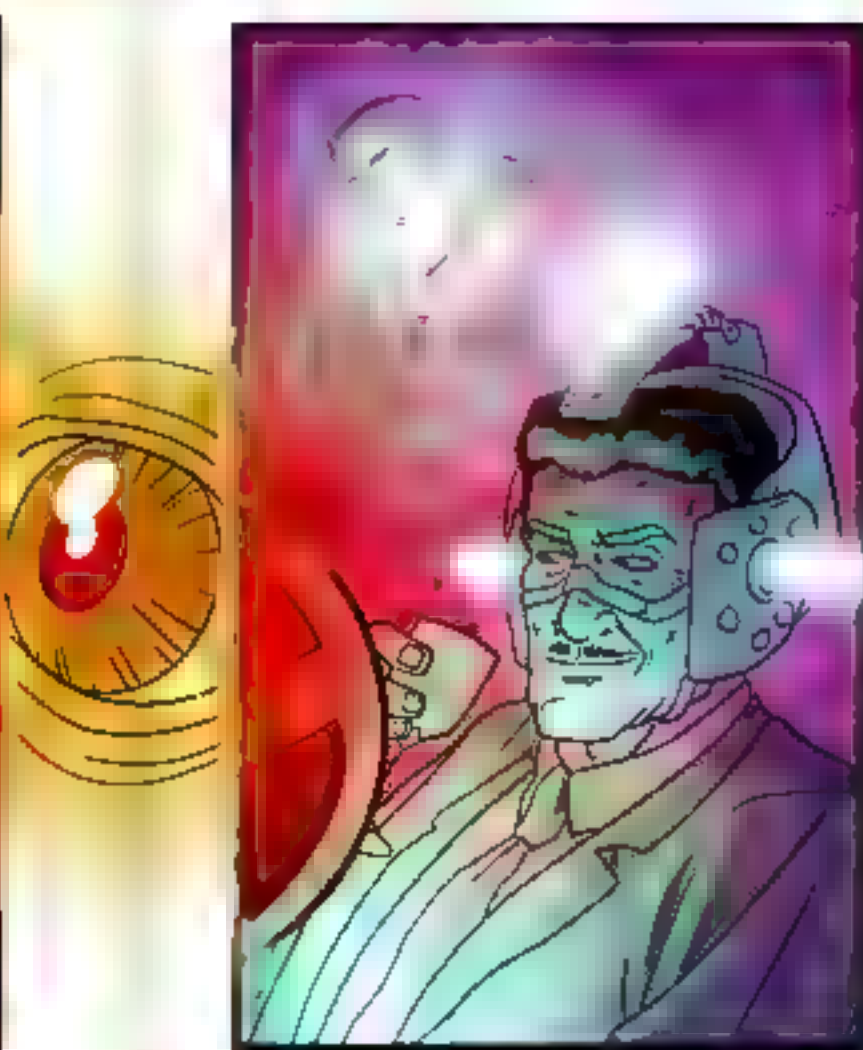


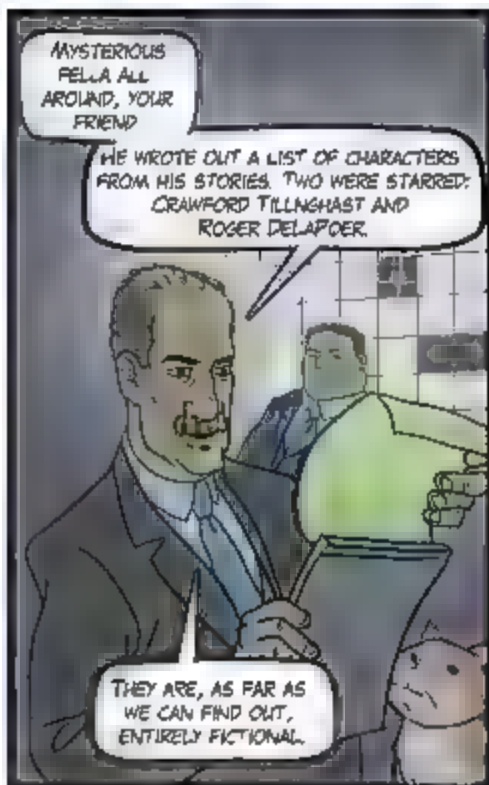
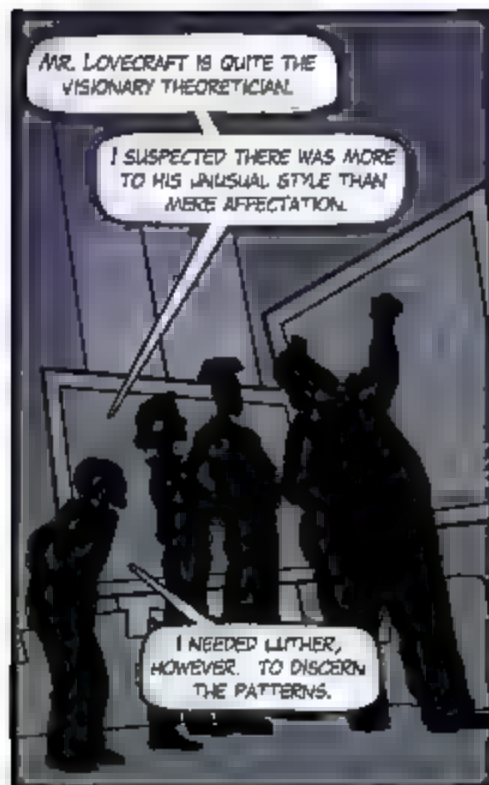
AH, NOW WE GET TO IT! YOUR
JUST REWARD... IMMORTALITY.
A REWARD WELL-EARNED, I MIGHT
ADD. AND YOU SHALL HAVE IT!

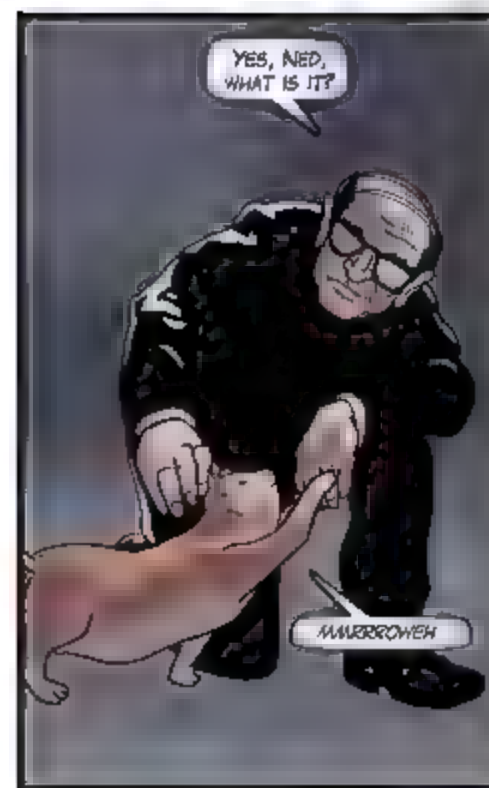
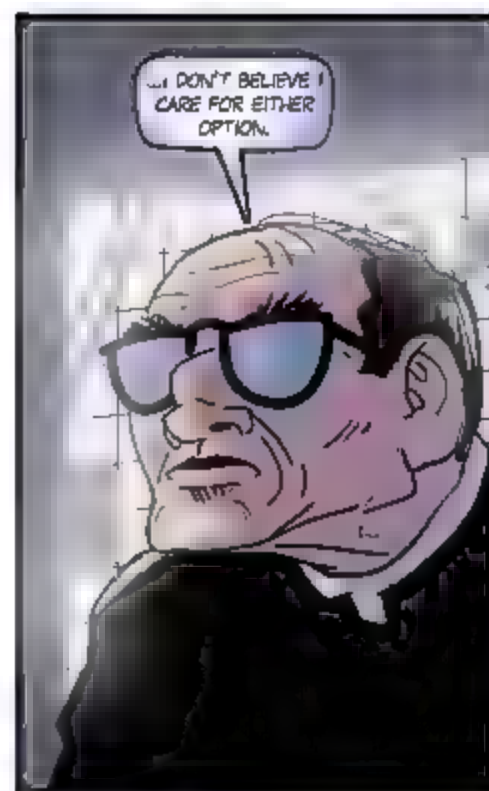
BUT FIRST WE
HAVE THAT LITTLE
TRAP TO SET, YES?



















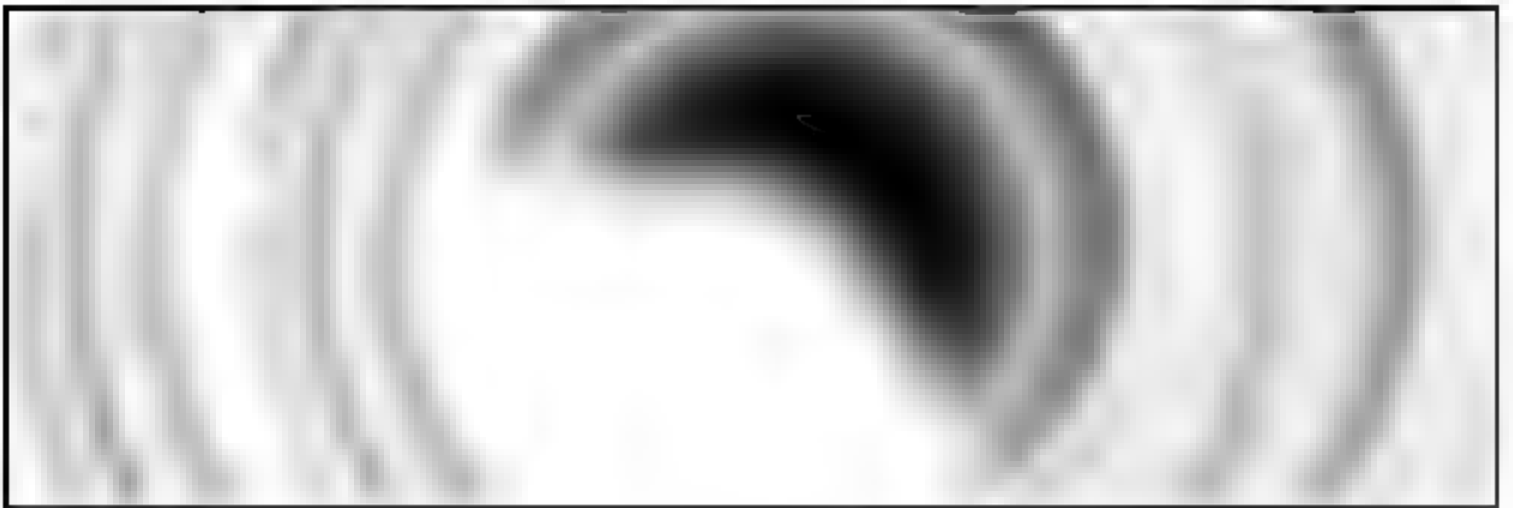
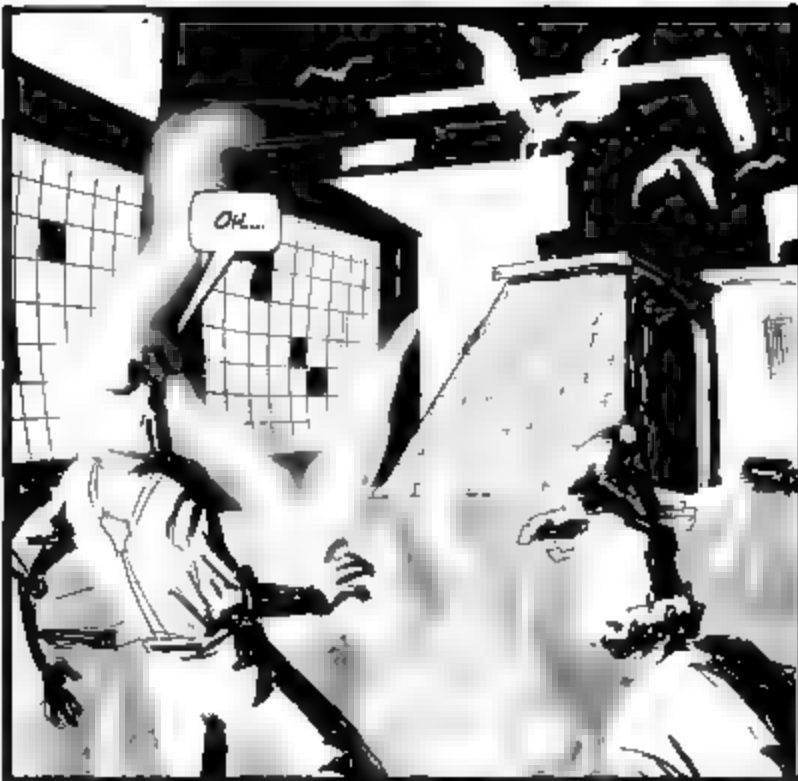










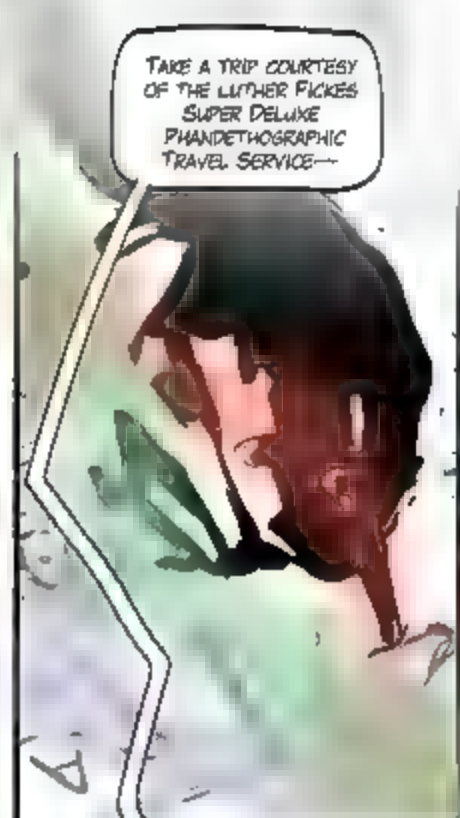


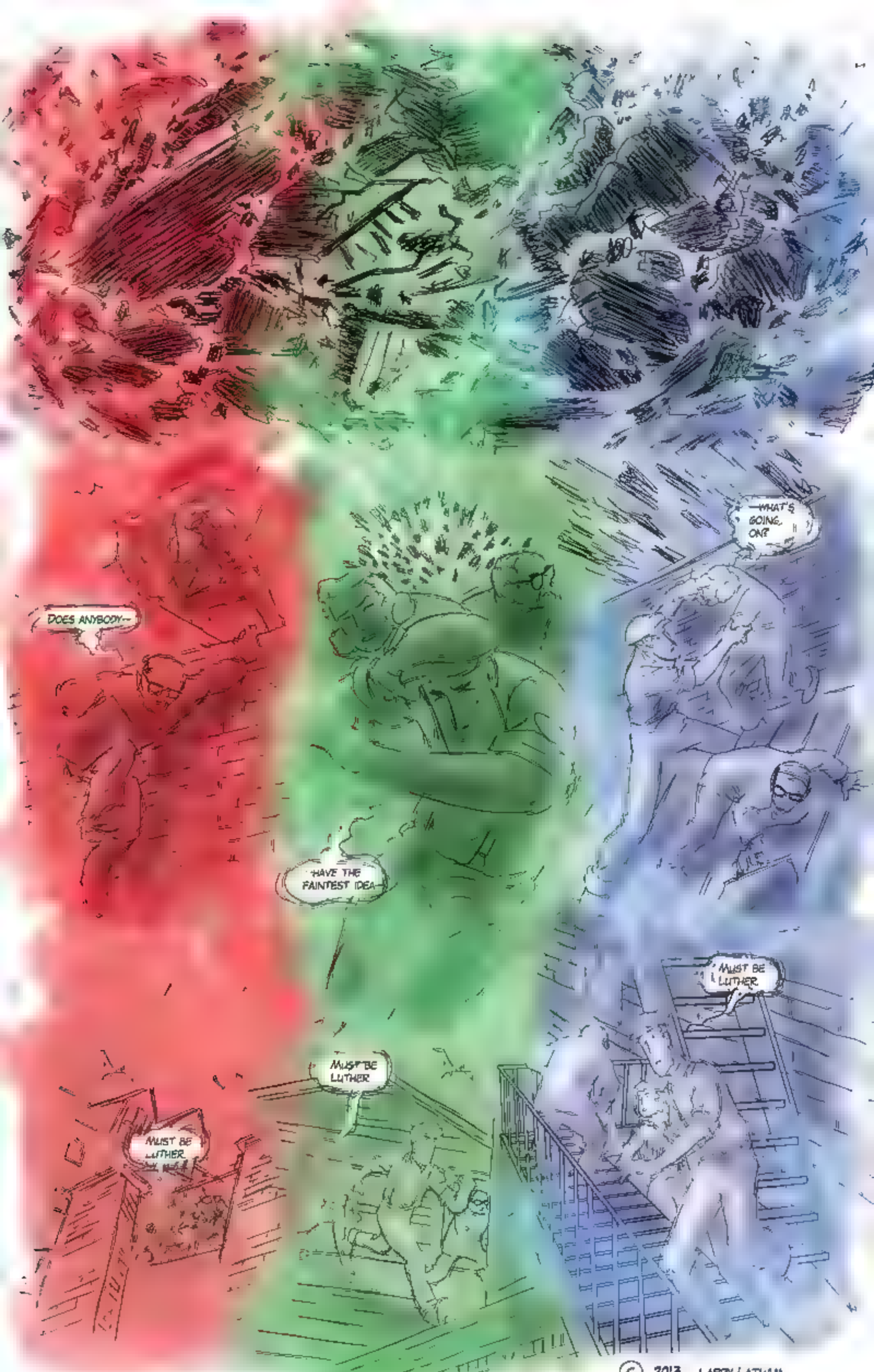


LUTHER DONE
SEEN THE
LIGHT!



Y'ALL GO
ON.





DOES ANYBODY--

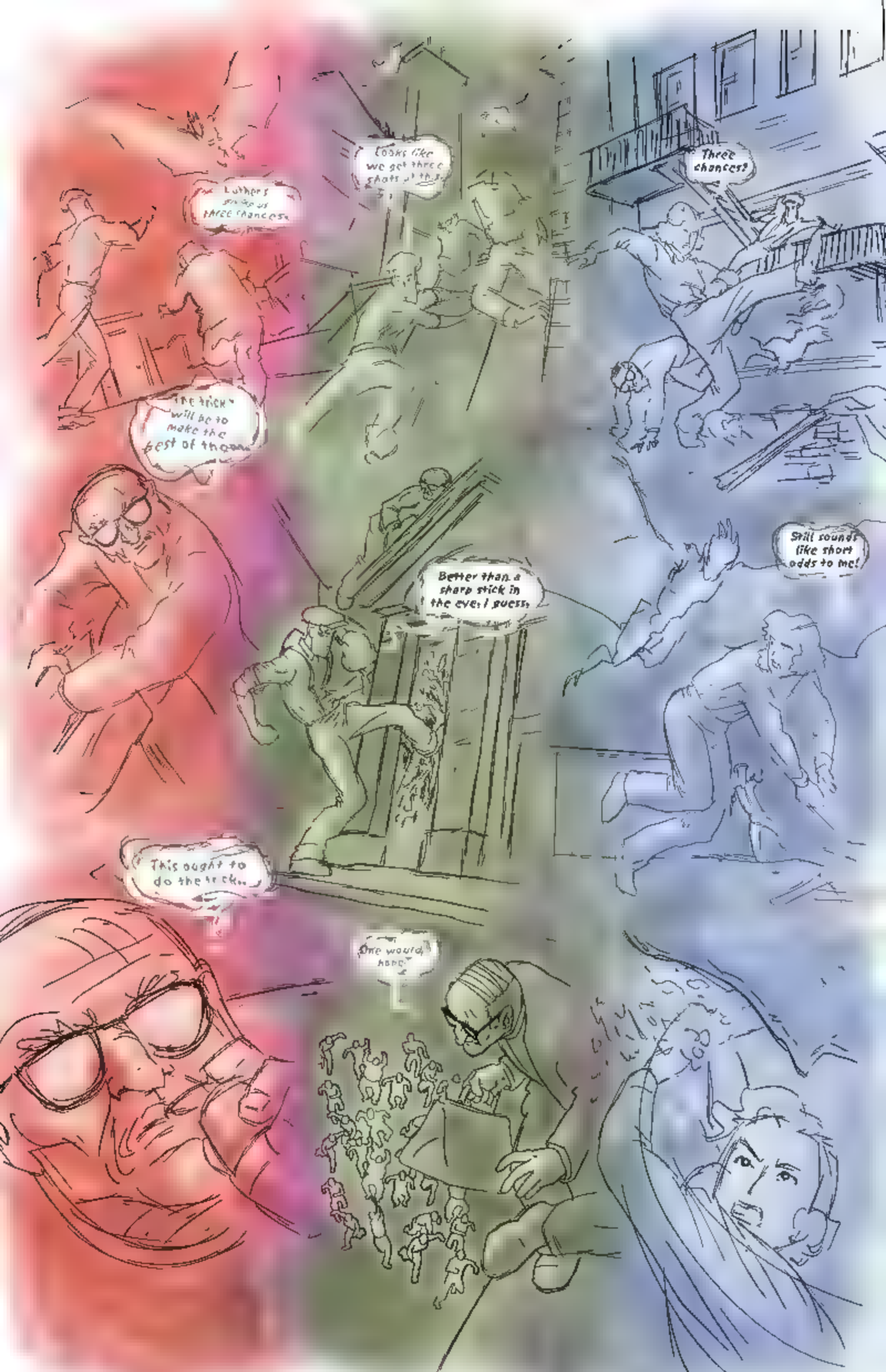
WHAT'S GOING ON?

HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA

MUST BE LUTHER

MUST BE LUTHER

MUST BE LUTHER



Luther's
gives us
three chances

Looks like
we got three
shots at this

Three
chances?

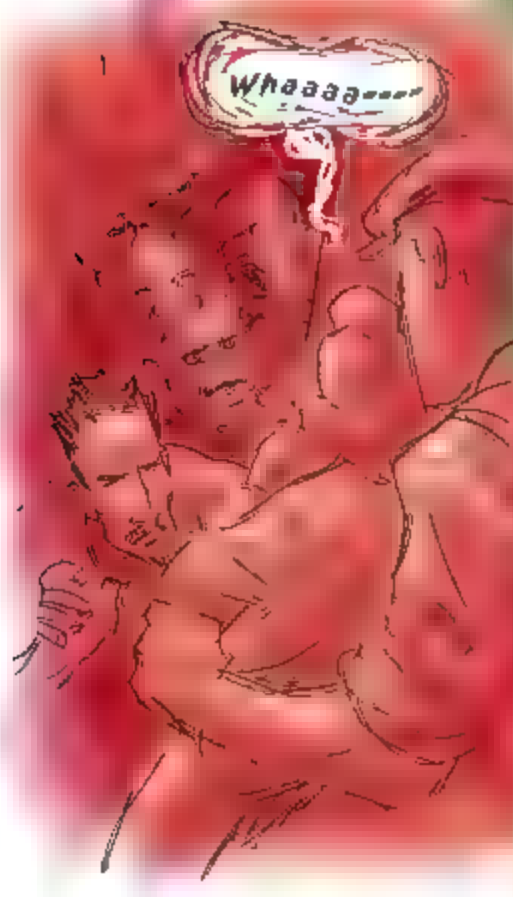
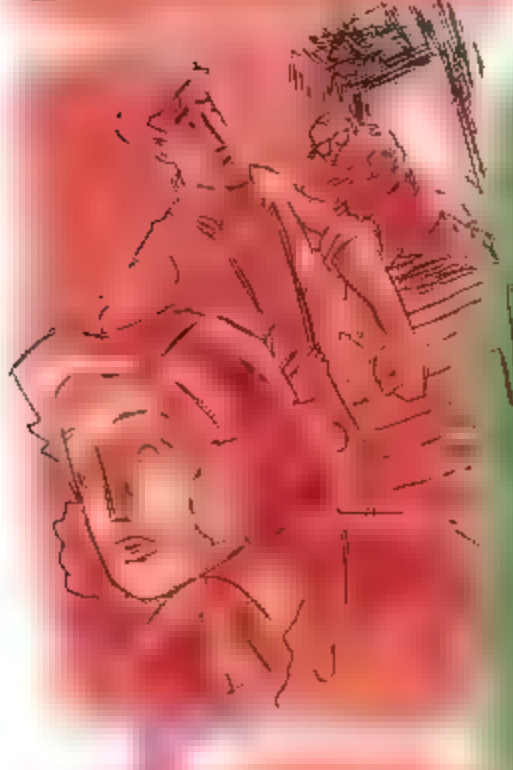
The trick
will be to
make the
best of them

Better than a
sharp stick in
the eye, I guess

Still sounds
like short
odds to me!

This ought to
do the trick

One would
hope



We're in luck--

Stop
wasting
time.

It feels
good--

Place is
deserted.

Where'd
they go?

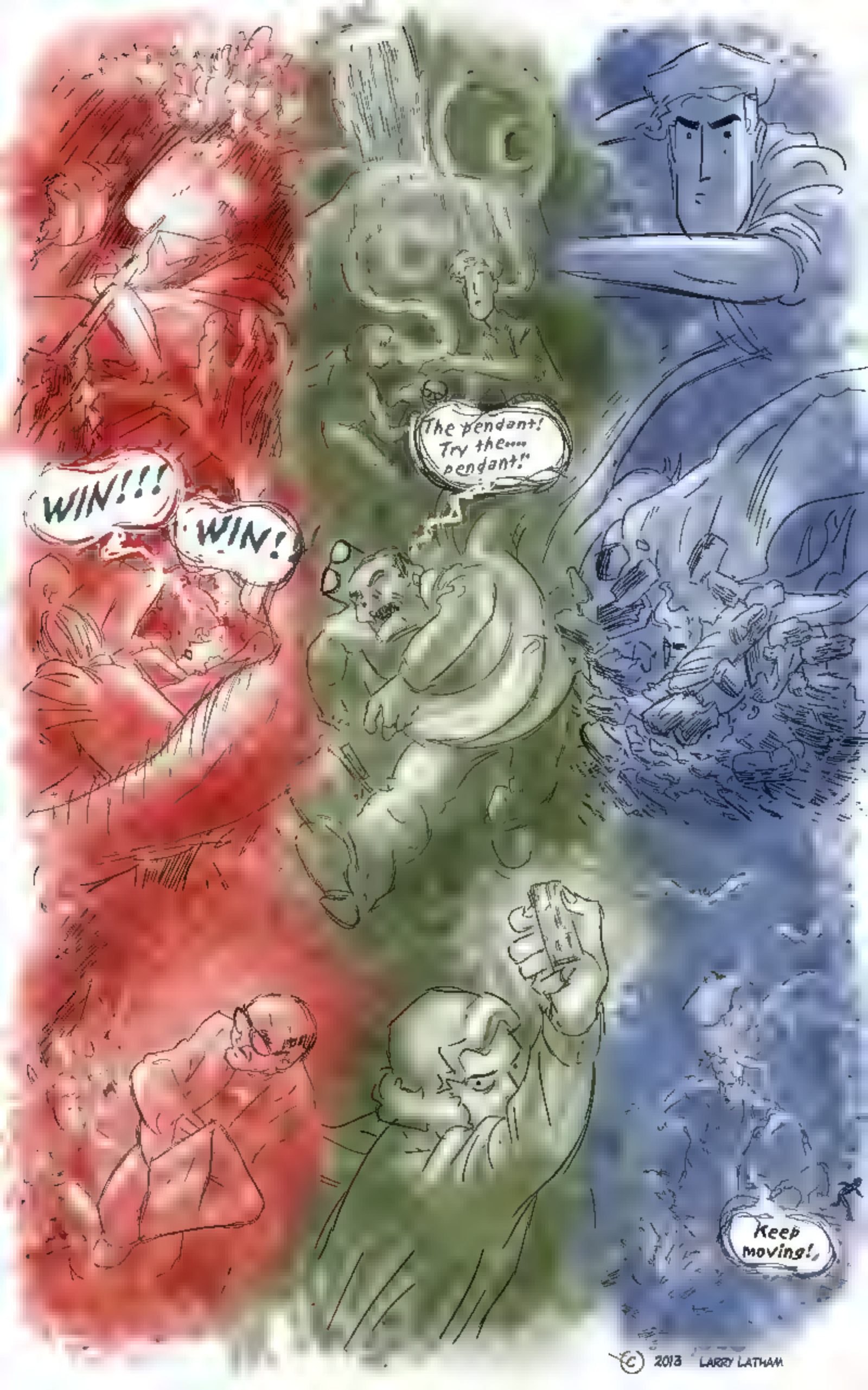
They'll
be--

Whaaaa--

--back!

Gotta learn
to keep my
mouth shut!



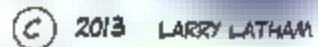


The pendant!
Try the...
pendant!

WIN!!!

WIN!

Keep
moving!



NAN!!

Did you
hear that?

And that smell--

NWRRRRRIIYAARRGH!:

Come on!
We've got
to move!

--it's like--
--like--

HOGS!



--I know I have another--

Comin' through, I ain't got...

Run!

Both of you!

...time--to--

Uuuuuuuuu!

This is it, farm boy.

Looks like.

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Let's not ~



